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# Regional Transportation Commission

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Chair Report  
October 12, 2006

# Chairs' Report

Today's agenda:

- Legal counsel report
- Vancouver presentation has been postponed
- Prioritization panel
- Discussion of Goals and Principles, with summary of last week's discussion

# Revised Tentative Discussion Timeline

<u>Date</u>	<u>Issue</u>
October 12	Goals and principles
October 16	Financing
October 26	Alternative models
October 30—	Peer Review,
November 10	Finish discussion and options for draft report

*\*\*\*This is a rough idea of our timeline and it is subject to change and not an official agenda*

# Next Meeting

- October 16th Meeting
  - North Seattle Community College
  - Report of the Committee on Finance
  - Review and discussion of Financing issues

# Summary: Challenges discussion

- *Puget Sound area has a transportation crisis*
  - ❑ Increasing commuter congestion
    - Caused by growth and demographics
  - ❑ Delays in Freight/Rail/Port traffic
    - Local delivery of goods also a major issue
  - ❑ Quality of Life issues
  - ❑ Deterioration of transportation infrastructure
  - ❑ Need for focus on safety and Emergency preparedness

# Summary: Causes discussion

- Under-investment of major infrastructure for past 30 years
  - Missed opportunity for more federal dollars
- Difficulty and delays in constructing new transit or highway systems
- Disconnect from Land Use Planning
  - Role of Growth Management Act
- The Growth of Citizen Initiatives
  - No on 912 may have been watershed event

# Summary: Causes discussion

- Lack of cooperation by jurisdictions on planning, finance, governance issues
  - Permitting processes
- Inconsistent and unclear system for prioritizing projects
- Public perception of the inability of government to spend tax dollars wisely: Lack of perceived Accountability to public
  - WHO is in charge?
  - WHAT tax dollars spent on?
  - WHERE are the benefits?

# Summary: Questions for RTC

- How do we respond to need to public's need for accountability?
- Can we effectively address spending caps and funding “silos”?



# Conclusions

- More money is needed for regional transportation projects
- Need to unify prioritization systems
- Need to improve perceived and actual accountability to increase funding
- Appears to be a need for a regional planning and financing body